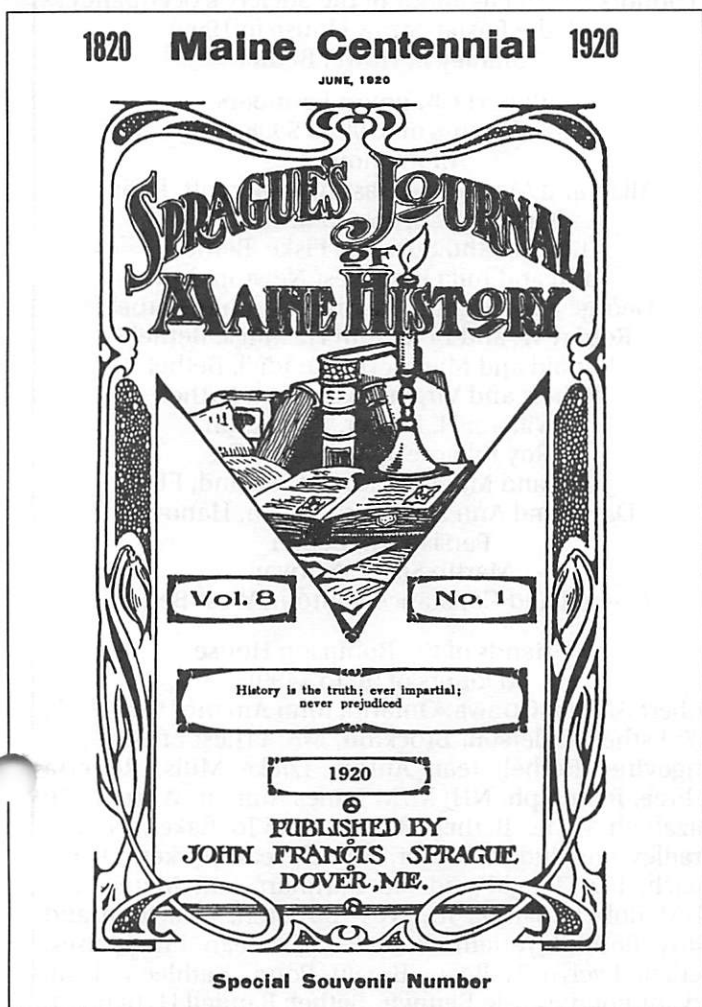


THE COURIER

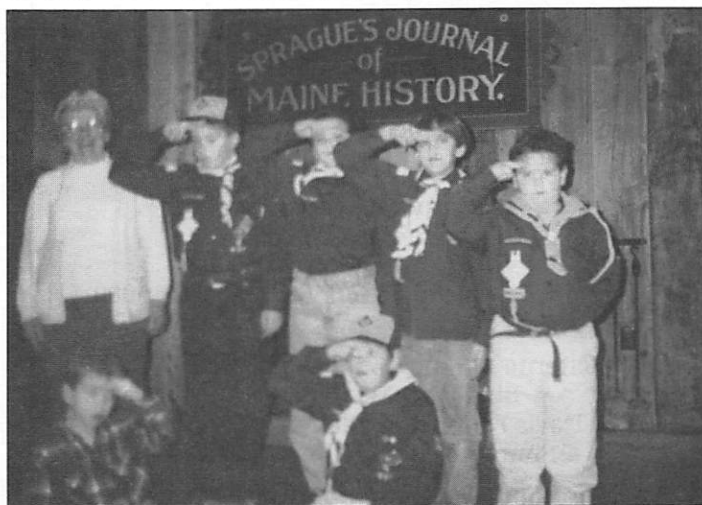
Quarterly Publication of the Bethel Historical Society's Regional History Center
Volume 23, Number 3 (1999)



The cover of the Centennial issue of SPRAGUE'S JOURNAL OF MAINE HISTORY, which began in 1913 and ceased publication shortly after his death in 1926.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER HOSTS EXHIBIT, "JOHN FRANCIS SPAGUE: DISSEMINATING MAINE HISTORY IN THE EARLY 20th CENTURY"

During the summer of 1999, the Society's Regional History Center was established to focus on the history of Northern New England. This expanded mission was clearly in evidence with the exhibit that opened in the Dr. Moses Mason House meeting room in August, which is on loan from the L. C. Bates Museum in Hinckley and made possible by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council. Titled "John Francis Sprague: Disseminating Maine History in Early 20th Century Maine", the exhibit celebrates the remarkable life of J.F. Sprague, who overcame a serious physical handicap (club feet), neglect by his parents (in part due to their Millerite faith), and little formal education to become one of the leading Maine historians in the early years of the 20th century. Sprague educated



A group of Bethel Cub Scouts visited the Dr. Moses Mason House this fall with Persis Post, who provided many details about life in the early 19th century. After the tour, Society Director Stanley R. Howe, discussed his scouting days in Bethel with them as part of their heritage experience at the Society's Regional History Center.

himself in the law and became a lawyer followed by service in both houses of the Maine Legislature. Here he was a leader in progressive causes, including women suffrage and the environment, long before these issues attracted a popular following. He may also have been an important influence upon Percival Baxter in attracting the future benefactor's interest in Mt. Katahdin. Sprague's most visible contribution to the study of Maine's past was his SPRAGUE'S JOURNAL OF MAINE HISTORY, which he edited, published, and distributed for over a dozen years beginning in 1913 and ending with his death in 1926. A lecture series on Maine historians, sponsored in part by the Maine Humanities Council, was also featured during the year.

Sprague had ties with the Bethel area. His grandfather, James Sprague, who fought in the Revolutionary War, moved to Bethel in 1816 in what is now the town of Hanover and remained there until his death in 1835. He is buried in the Hanover Cemetery along with his second wife and other family members. His first wife, Mary Bartlett, the grandmother of John, was the daughter of Ebenezer Bartlett of Sudbury Canada (now Bethel). Born in 1761, she died in Monmouth in 1805. He later married Nancy Richards of Bath before moving to Bethel. J.F. Sprague's father, Elbridge Gerry Sprague (born in 1798), moved from Bethel to Sangerville, where he died in 1867.

John Francis Sprague had another tie with Oxford County. When he decided to become a lawyer, he sought out Alvah Black, a prominent attorney and legislator at his Paris Hill office. He read law with him for two years (1876-78) before returning to Monson to establish his own law office and begin his remarkable career as lawyer, legislator, and leading Maine historian.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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ROBINSON HOUSE

In May 1998, the Society acquired the historic former Elms property for operations as an addition to its facilities. Named for the original owner of the house, O'Neil Robinson (1797-1867) and adjacent to the headquarters for the last twenty five years, the Dr. Moses Mason House, the building became known officially as the Robinson House. Once renovations are completed, critically needed space for exhibits, expanded museum shop and craft operations, more adequate research room and collection storage as well as an education room for all ages would be among the results of this expansion. This project also includes an endowment phase, which when completed would also allow the Society to support more comprehensively its Regional History Center with programming, conferences, publications, exhibits, lectures, etc. relating to Northern New England. Contributions are welcomed to make all this happen and may be made in a number of ways through cash, securities, stock, etc. For further information, please call the Society at (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or write to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012 or e-mail (history@bdc.bethel.me.us).

JOIN THOSE LISTED ABOVE IN HELPING TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE 21st CENTURY! PLEASE SEND YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION NOW!

BOOK NOTE

CALLOW, BRAVE AND TRUE: A GOSPEL OF CIVIL WAR YOUTH by Jay S. Hoar. (Gettysburg, PA: Thomas Publications, 1999. 267 pp. Paper. \$20) Available in Society's Museum Shop.

Professor Jay Hoar's book on the boys as young as eleven and twelve years old who fought in the Civil War is a useful study of a subject that has long intrigued students of that conflict. Hoar has managed to document dozens of boys sixteen and younger who fought on either the Confederate or Union side of the war. Much of the body of the book consists of brief biographies of some of the most interesting young combatants. There is also a dozen pages in the appendix of lists of known boy-soldiers followed by extensive notes on sources. Students of the Civil War, lovers of history, and those wishing to learn more about what motivated boys so young to participate in such a bloody event will find this book compelling reading. SRH

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Carol J. Verrill, Wiscasset
Marian Penley Gates, Ann Arbor, MI

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Barbara H. Lapham at the records computer station where she volunteers each week.

MEMBER PROFILE

Barbara H. Lapham

Life member Barbara H. Lapham of Hanover, Maine, was born in Berlin, NH and graduated from Gould Academy in 1955. She worked at the Academy for over forty years, the last thirteen as controller. She is married to Dale Lapham, also a life member, and has one daughter and three grandchildren.

Professionally, Mrs. Lapham was president of the Independent School Association of Northern New England Business Managers in 1994-95. In 1991, she received the Gould "Alumna of the Year Award" and has served as secretary of the Gould Academy Alumni Association and the Gould Women's Club.

Her community activities include service as president of the Newry Mother's Club and secretary of Dollars for Scholars. She was treasurer of the Town of Hanover (1984-86) and a member of its Board of Selectmen for six years (1992-98).

A former president of the Society, she volunteers one day per week entering collection data into the cataloging software.

Her hobbies include transcribing family diaries, assembling newspaper clippings, knitting, and furnishing a twelve room Victorian dollhouse.

34th ANNUAL MEETING

Over fifty members and friends attended the 34th annual meeting held on September 2, 1999 on the Robinson House porch, which was preceded by the annual pot luck supper. All those attended appeared to enjoy this new milieu made possible by the purchase of this building and occupied by the Society for the first time this year.

Retiring president Walter Hatch presided and called for a moment of silence as he read off the names of those members who have died since the last annual meeting: Helen Smith, Margaret Varney, Barbara Rich Adams, Edgar Coolidge, Eunice Sysko, Albert Bartlett, John Nowlin, Ann Morris, Franklin Chapman, Majorie Farwell Anderson, Gerald Kimball, Elizabeth Bailey, Rodney Howe, Louise Lincoln, and Dana Douglass.

Mr. Hatch reviewed some of the highlights of the past year: seventy new members added, over fifty gifts of arti-

(continued on page 7)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Thanks to you all for having confidence in me as I start my term as your president during these exciting times. Exciting, not only for the Society, but for the town and surrounding area.

On top of the list is, of course, the continuing capital campaign to purchase, restore, renovate, equip, and endow the historic 1821 Robinson House, formerly the Elms of the Bethel Inn. Upon completion of this million dollar project, the Society will truly become northern New England's Regional History Center and Maine's most outstanding small museum and historical society. I encourage all of you to continue to support this most worthy cause.

Let us not forget, however, all the many other interesting and related project to our mission that are happening in the Bethel area. These projects are taking place by other groups with the help and support of many of our membership.

(1) The Odeon Hall Committee is committed to restoring the upstairs of the Cole Block, a structure on the National Register, and home of the Bethel Town Office and the *Bethel Citizen*. The Committee is working on a plan to restore the theater to its former splendor as a performing arts center where William Rogers Chapman and others once brought world renown singers, artists, and actors during the early years of the last century.

(2) The Bethel Millennium Committee is selling sidewalk bricks which can be engraved to honor a family member, organization or business, or someone who had a positive impact on the town. The first phase of this sidewalk reconstruction will be in front of the Cole Block when the steps to town offices are replaced. You can order your brick(s) by calling Janet Black at (207) 824-0888 or the Bethel Town office (207) 824-2669.

(3) The Main Street Committee is working to revitalize the business and residential district. Beginning with the restoration of the Naimey Block for continued use as the post office, the Committee continues to promote new business and keeping those existing businesses in place.

(4) The possibility of a swimming pond/beach and recreation area on the North Road donated by Society members Ernest and Alberta Angevine promises to add another asset to the town.

(5) The Bethel Pathway Project will be built this summer and will continue the process of linking all the area trails for walking, jogging, snowmobiling, bird watching, and nature watching near the scenic Androscoggin River for young and old alike.

(6) The Transit Study Committee is nearing the completion of its plans to initiate local bus service within and between the Towns of Newry and Bethel. When this becomes a reality more people will be walking the streets of Bethel and will be able to enjoy the town's historic and architectural past. In addition, plans are continuing on the state and federal level to upgrade the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Railroad roadbed to bring back passenger service between Bethel, Boston, Montreal, and beyond including ski and foliage tours. This is especially good news as we prepare to celebrate 150 years of rail service to the area.

I urge all of you to get involved with one or more these projects and let us together make sure Bethel remains the beautiful and historic town in which we all can live, work, and play.

Alvin Barth

(Membership List, continued from page 4)

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(Annual Meeting, continued from page 5)

facts made, a number of groups visited the Society including the Pequawkett League of Historical Societies and the North Country Chapter of New Hampshire Genealogists, the first Apple Festival and New Year's Bethel held, the receipt of a number of foundation grants and major donations to the capital campaign, donation of a fax machine by John and Julia Fox of Andover, ME and West Newton, MA, acquisition of a video camera through a grant from Exxon, moving into the Robinson House and establishment of the Regional History Center, the award of a MAP III grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a grant from the Maine Humanities Council to accompany the exhibit on John Francis Sprague, and the gift of a computer and accessories from Jack and Lucy Nordahl.

One of the gifts made during 1999 was highlighted by Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett. It was an 1895 painting attributed to the artist J. Spaulding Record, showing Mayville and the mountains north and northwest of Bethel, including Baldpate. Bennett called particular attention to the depiction of the Second Congregational Church (1848-1909) in the foreground. This was the gift of member Richard Hathaway of Montpelier, VT.

Persis Post presented the 13th annual Majorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award to Willard and Sylvia Wight of Newry for the many contributions to the organization and long service on committees and the Board of Trustees.

The Nominating Committee consisting of retiring trustee Charles Raymond and two from the general membership, Margaret Davis and Dorothy Bartlett, submitted the following names for officers and trustees: President, Alvin Barth; Vice President, Arlan Jodrey; Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees, Allen Cressy; Treasurer, Arlene Lowell; Trustees for three years: Walter Hatch and Jacqueline Van Leuven. The report was approved unanimously. Mr. Hatch thanked retiring trustees Charles Raymond and Paul McGuire for their devoted service.

Speaker for the evening was Neil Rolde, a former eight term legislator from York County and an assistant to Governor Kenneth Curtis, who spoke on James Phinney Baxter, six times mayor of Portland, creator of the modern park system, and one of Maine's foremost historians in the late 19th and early years of the 20th century. Owner of a canning business, he made it possible for his son Percival, a Maine governor, to buy what eventually became Baxter State Park. Mr. Rolde is the author of a number of books on Maine history, including *THE BAXTERS OF MAINE: DOWNEAST VISIONARIES*.

EDITOR'S CORNER

There was considerable favorable response to the article on the poor in the last issue. Thanks to everyone who took the time to comment.

In addition, retired University of Maine at Farmington history professor and dean Gwilym Roberts expressed his appreciation for the William Hastings diary selections. Others have enjoyed the serialized story of Bethel's soldiers of '61.

We will continue to cover a wide variety of subjects relating to our region. Anyone wishing to research and write about particular aspects of the area's past is urged to let us know. We are always looking for new contributions for *THE COURIER*.
SRH



Persis Post (right) presents the 1999 Noll Volunteer Service Award to Willard and Sylvia Wight at the 34th annual meeting held on the Robinson House porch.

DIARY OF WILLIAM S. HASTINGS

(continued from the last issue)

1936-June 7. Fair and warm. Picnic dinner at Twitchell Pond. First swim of season. Water was cold. Canoe leaked a little. Turned out young stock and fixed fence. June 8. Cloudy. Awful dry. Plowed and harrowed on rye ground. Finished plowing on our land. Potatoes, 20 A. Oats, 9 1/2 A. Corn (Kato), 2 A. Millet (Jap.), 1 A. Buckwheat, 1 A. Fallow (Bindweed), 1/2 A. Total 34 A. June 9. Fair and hot. Planting garden. Kato Korn is breaking the ground. Potatoes \$2.40 per bu. June 10. Cloudy but hot. Spread manure for John. Plowed and harrowed for John. June 11. Misted in morning. Cleaned cellar. Packed away barrels. 1 1/2 hours on Newt's [Sherman Newton at Bean's Corner] barn lights. Built bridge at Aunt Frank's. Norway in p.m. and had some bones snapped back in my neck. June 12. Fair and warm. Plowed for John 5 hrs. Bob started peeling. June 13. Fair and hot. Peeled spruce and fir all day. June 14. Clouding up. Picnic at Twitchell Pond. Sold bull for 9 cents per lb. Weighed 750 lbs. dressed. June 15. Raining. Wet all day but not much rain. June 16. Fair. Harrowed for John 3 hrs. Dressed roosters at 30 cents per lb. June 17. Fair and hot. Peeling again. About 13 cords tonight. 7 chickens to Ramsell's [market in Bethel]. June 18. Wet all day in the brush. Not much rain. Peeled 5 cords. Rain at night. June 19. Cloudy and wet. Dressed poultry and went to Bethel in a.m. Cultivated some in p.m. Haakon's reception. Bob in Augusta for weekend. Max Schmelling knocked out Joe Louis in the 12th round. Some fight! June 20. Clearing. Back in the bush again. Hot day! We went onto back lot. N.W. half of Lot 10 Range 9. Good pulp on some of it. Shower at night. June 21. Clear and cool. Auto trip to Upton, Errol and Berlin, Gorham, etc. Roads good. June 22. Clear and cool. Peeling. Cold mornings. As low as 33. June 23. Cloudy warm. Peeling. Ralph Young, surveyor, came to run lines in Henry swamp. Began at spotted spruce on E. line of Lot 10 at Trask, Rayford corner. Course South 13 3/4 East the length of lot. June 24 & 25. Peeling. June 26. Cloudy and showery. Ran lines on swamp lot all day. Young was here and ran the compass. Map of lots on



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(Membership List, continued from page 6)

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(Diary, continued from page 7)

opposite page. Not drawn to scale. June 27. Raining. Dressed chickens. Cleaned up planter. Bob in Bethel. First pullets egg from cross-breds. Exactly four months old. June 28. Cold and showery. Went to Greenwood and picked strawberries, 6 crates. We brought 1 crate home to can. June 29. Cold and showery. Peeling near Gossom Road. Left foot is extra lame. June 30. Warmer. Moved

cross-bred pullets to new range. Peeled about 1 1/2 cords. 40 cords + or -. Greased car. Foot is awful lame. Bob mowed some hay. July 1, Cool. Peeling. July 2, Cool. Dressed poultry. Mowed hay. Got in two loads. July 3. Cool and cloudy. Raked scattering. Started at noon for Umbagog Lake. Arrived at Lakeside. Rained all night. July 4. Cool and cloudy. I "broke my back" lifting the canoe. Went to Norway and Swett fixed it but had to give up the trip. Too sore. Got home about 4 P.M. July 5. Cloudy and cool. In bed all day. Back is bad. July 6. Went to Norway and had back fixed. July 7. Fair. Repaired sprayer. Gaining. July 8. Fair. Repaired pump and pipe for spray water. July 9. Partly cloudy. Mowed and sprayed 2 1/2 acres. July 10. Cloudy and rainy. 4-5 loads of hay out. Nice!! Back to Norway for a treatment. Ordered a Myers Thresher Tank Pump. 5 X 5, 2000 gal. per hr. capacity for our spray material. \$14.50. July 11. Cloudy. Bethel with butter, eggs, etc. Butter .35, Eggs .35, Chicken .30. Finished peeling. July 12. Cloudy. Went to Greenwood in p.m. Swam in Twitchell. July 13. Clearing. Haying on Home Place. July 14. Fair and Warm. Windy and smoky. Sprayed 10 acres. Bugs are bad. Haying. Mowing with tractor. Insured my car in the Grange Co. Chesley Saunders came over and wrote the policy. July 16. Haying and spraying. July 17. Haying. Went to see Swett in eve. "Discharged as cured." July 18. Nice Day. Finished Home Piece. Grange meeting at B. Pond. July 19. Fine Day. Greenwood. Lockes Mills for tennis. July 20. Haying on "Horse Pasture" and "Ephraim Piece." July 21. Ditto. Pulled weeds on spuds. Shower in P.M. July 22. Clearing. Nice hay day. Nearly finished the mowing. July 23. Cloudy. Norway for barrels and pump. Set up pump. Works nice! Finished mowing. F. & Game meeting in eve. Bad shower and no lights until 10 P.M. July 24. Raining!! & How!! Dressed poultry. Cleaned Coburn cellar. I stuck a pitchfork thru my hand. Bethel with chickens and eggs. July 25. Fair and Cool. Spraying on Bean piece and Crow Piece. Sprayed 14 acres. Pulled weeds and got 1 load of hay. One load is left out. Went to Norway to movies with Lauri and Evelyn [Tamminen, Ruth's sister and husband]. Home at 12:30. July 26. Showery. Greenwood. Went to So. Woodstock to a ballgame. Gr.-2: S.W.-7. July 27. Fair and warm. Sprayed Dave's potatoes. 160 gal. and 80 gals. Dressed chickens. Sprayed our spuds 300 gals. John's spuds 80 gals. Ray Parker called. Finished haying!!!! July 28. Fair and warm. Set up ensilage cutter. Pulled weeds. Sprayed. Put lags back on tractor. Dug a few spuds. Good size. July 29. Fair and warm. Cut in ensilage (about 3 feet). Pulled weeds on Crow Farm. July 30. Fair and warm. Dressed 18 chickens. Jacked up roof of barn. Cut staging poles. July 31. Fair and warm. 35th birthday. Dressed 18 chickens. Mowed silage oats. Went swimming in eve. at South Pond. Cold!!! August 1. Fair and warm. Cut in silage. Changed boom on sprayer and sprayed spuds. Broke down 3 times. August 2. Cloudy and smoky. Went to Wild River Ranger Station, 5 1/2 miles above Hastings. Then went to Edward's camp on Lower Kezar via Evans Notch and Cold River. Canoeed a little. Cranberries are quite thick. Bob brought home 8 Rock Cockerals. August 3. Cloudy. Cut in silage. About 6 ft. up in silo. August 4. Sprayed. August 5. Clear and warm. Painted on Bob's house all day. August 6. Raining in A.M. Cut in silage for Ceylon. F. & Games meeting in eve. August 7. Clear and warm. Farm Bureau tour started at our farm. Demonstrated Bordeaux mixing. Dug 30 bu. spuds. Good size and average 250 bu. per acre. Loaded Bob up for Portland. August 8. Fair and hot. Dressed poultry and took poultry, eggs, butter, peas, and potatoes to Bethel. Spuds

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THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

*From the pages of the OXFORD ADVERTISER,
19 November 1886, compiled by Judge C. F. Whitman of
Norway*

A general court marshal was organized on the 2nd of June for the trial of offenders of which court Col. Edwards was selected as president. Nine cases in all were disposed of and the judgment of the board in every case approved.

The regiment at this time was encamped near where "Washington spent his boyhood days." The wounded sailors in the hospital were generally doing well. Two of them, however, died. One of these was Lieut. Smith G. Bailey of Poland, who commanded Co. H. in the Chancellorsville campaign. He had been a graduate of Tufts College, was a fine officer and had he lived was sure to have made his mark among the gallant defenders of his country. Col. Edwards deeply deplored the loss of his "right-hand man" as he called him in a letter to his folks at home.



MARIUS BEPPHAEAT

The hills on the opposite side of the river were covered with the tents of the Rebel soldiers. The leading spirits of the Rebellion were preparing for a second invasion of the North and did not care to bring on a general engagement, and the two armies lay in quiet view of each other for some time. A great sensation was caused one day by the colonel and two other officers meeting some Rebel official of equal rank between the lines of the two armies and exchanging papers while the regiment was on picket. The affair was witnessed by thousands of men on both sides.

The movement of the enemy for transferring the seat of war to free-soil began quite early in the month of June and soon our army was also on the move. In the face of the enemy, Hooker was superseded and Gen. Geo. B. Meade appointed in his stead--Gen. Reynolds in command of the 1st corps having declined to take the place. The two armies met in the vicinity of Gettysburg, PA, on the 1st day of July 1863, where on that and the two following days a great battle was fought which is generally regarded as the turning point in the contest.

During the greater part of the month of June, the regiment had been making long and weary marches, till the feet of the men were blistered and they were nearly worn out. The first of July found the regiment resting quietly in camp near Manchester situated in the northern part of Maryland and near the state line. The day passed without incident and the men were unaware that Reynolds had already met the enemy at Gettysburg, and had been killed in the battle.

The union troops had a magnificent reception in this part of the state. The Rebels had been there before them and stripped the country of whatever they needed but it did not check the enthusiasm of our soldiers as they occupied the country after them. "The people here are the best in the world," writes the regiment's colonel. "They give away thousands of dollars worth of eatables every day.

(continued on page 10)

(Diary, continued from page 9)

are \$1.80 at store, 50 cents a peck. Home at 3:30 and got a load of oats for John and Noyes. Bob in Portland with spuds 45 cents per peck. August 9. Fair and hot! Went up to pulp cutting with Jorgen. Church down here in P.M. Rev. McKillop. After church, went for ride down thru East Woodstock. Stopped at Verne Smith's camp on N. Pond Nice location and camp. August 10. Hot. Painting, etc. August 11. Fair and cool. Spreading manure on Ephraim piece. August 12. Fair and cool. Finished spreading. Plowed. August 14. Cloudy but hot!! Shingled. Finished plowing 6-7 acres. August 15. Raining. No field day [Fish and Game] today. Collected our \$100 rain insurance and postponed until the 22nd. Norway in P.M. "Showboat" picture in eve. Darn good picture! August 16. Fair and hot. Hottest day on record. Went to Greenwood. Got cattle down from hill. August 17. Cloudy and cool. Sprayed in A.M. Potatoes are going back with early blight. Sessions brot Farwell's and our thresher. Old machine \$125. Worked on it in p.m. August 18. +38 deg. Cold! Fair. Bethel with potatoes. \$1.50 bu. Sold tickets and membership and membership card to F. & G. Ass'n. Tinkered thresher in P.M.. August 19. Cloudy, clearing. Hot! Finished repairing thresher. Turned oats. Threshed two loads. Worked fine. Hal's folks [Harold Hastings] called in eve. August 20. Clear. Threshing. 9 loads for Farwell. 240 bu. +/- Loaded a load of our oats. August 21. Clear, cloudy at noon, rain in P.M. Got 4 loads of oats loaded and threshed all but 1/2 load. Stopped because of rain. Took load of straw to Greenwood [mulch for George Cole's berry beds]. August 22. Rain. Held Field Day of Fish & Game Ass'n. Not much crowd. Col. Frank Southard of Augusta and Simon Hamlin of South Portland spoke. Boat races etc. No drawing of prizes because all books were not in. August 23. Clearing. Went to see Uncle John about working here. Went to Kenyon's camp. Church in P.M. After church we went to Farwell Hill after blackberries. Saw a fox. August 24. Cloudy. Dressing hens. Mowed 1 acre of oats. August 25. Clear and cool. Spraying for last time. Harrowed Eph piece in p.m. Cold wind. August 26. +33 deg. Clear and cold. Threshing. 2 loads for us. 4 loads for Ceylon. Put in one hour on Newt's barn lights. August 27. +36 deg. Cool. Mowed 2nd crop. We have about 6-7 acres of it. Remarkably good. 1 hr. on Newt's light. Hauled wood. August 28. +38 deg. Clear and cold. Dressed poultry and mowed millet. Bob gone to Farm Bureau field day. August 29. Rain. All day & eve. Cold! Bethel with produce. Cleaned henhouse. Made a gunrack with the horns of my 200 lb. 6 point buck shot in 1930 with the 40-82 Winchester. Iva Bartlett and Loton Hutchinson wedding. August 30. Wet & overcast. Greenwood. Aunt Flora is there. August 31. Foggy, cloudy and showers in P.M. Dad, Geo. Cole and myself started for No. 6 on a cruising trip. Went via Rumford, Wilton, Farmington, Phillips. Dan Fields man Mr. Beals went in with us. Camped in an old camp.

(Bethel Soldiers, continued from page 9)

Some have even given all they had, without saving enough for themselves a single day. We passed a beautiful brick school house the other day just as the scholars were let out. It reminded me of home. As we reached the place (Manchester) the band played and our troops marched in splendid style. Thousands of flags and handkerchiefs were waved. I felt proud at the head of my little regiment heroes. We passed through and camped a short distance out of the city. The country abounds with cherries. The trees are loaded with them. As I sit writing I see from my tent door the boys lugging in stuff from the farm house, such as bread, cakes, milk, butter, etc. Hundreds of ladies

are working their hands off cooking for the soldiers. Jimmy has just come in with a load. He says there is not a woman within five miles from here who slept a wink last night as they were up cooking for the Union troops. Some of them have cooked up two or three barrels of flour apiece, and many of them won't take a cent of pay for it." Here is a glimpse of the patriotic people of northern Maryland which does them great credit. Let it be remembered to their eternal glory, while our children and children's children shall prize the government of our country, what our soldiers by their sacrifices and blood have preserved to us and them.

A hot and sultry night succeeded the day, and the soldiers of the regiment, having feasted upon the best which the country afforded, has laid down to rest and sleep, when the order to strike tents and get ready to move at once came and like the good soldiers they were they sprang forward with alacrity to obey. Forty miles away our troops were hastily gathering behind the defenses of Cemetery Ridge, which had been selected as the battleground. Hour after hour tramped the 6th Corps. The sun rose upon their ranks covered with dust. No halt for breakfast. On, on they marched for they were needed at the front. The hot July sun poured its rays upon them. The distant roar of cannon told them that the battle was "on once more" and more than the life and drum it quickened their footsteps and made them eager for the fray. The 3rd Corps was battling with the enemy--its commander having been purposely brought on the contest, fearing that Meade didn't intend to fight. His lines formed a triangle whose apex was toward the enemy, and which were driven toward the enemy, and which were driven back to a horizontal before the day was over. It gave the Rebels such courage that on the following day, Pickett's grand charge was made and the flower of the Confederate armies went down in blood before the Northern cannons upon the heights of Cemetery Ridge.

About four o'clock in the afternoon of the 2nd of July, the 6th Corps led by the 5th Maine arrived on the field. The news flew from division to division, and cheer upon cheer ran along the lines. The "fighting sixth" under the gallant Sedgewick had come to the rescue. The men were wild with excitement. Victory was now assured. At once it moved to the front and took position, and the enemy fell back. A good position was then secured and there was nothing for them to do but hold it. The 5th Maine was placed on Little Round Top, which the brave Chamberlain had so nobly held.

The night closed in with both armies waiting for the morrow. That evening, a detachment of three companies of the regiment made a reconnaissance and recovered one gun, two caissons and a bunker of the 9th Mass. Battery, which had been taken by the enemy during the fight of Sickles' Corps. They slept on their arms upon the hard rocks of Little Round Top, where they had erected a breastwork of rocks and stones. The sun rose grand and beautiful upon Patriot and Traitor, waiting for the contest which would decide the fate of the Nation. The forenoon wore away. At one o'clock the storm of battle broke, shaking the earth under their feet, as with the shock of an earthquake. The air was full of bursting shells, solid shot plowed the ground and the missiles of death flew everywhere. Two hours the cannonading continued when a lull in the storm took place. Then came the famous charge of Pickett which was repulsed with heavy loss, and during the following night, the Rebel chief gathered along his shattered forces and "silently stole away."

(to be continued in the next issue)



A view of the Locke Mountain House as it looked in Miss Locke's day at the turn of the century. Photo courtesy of James and Marilyn Swan.

The former Locke Mountain House which hosted scores of visitors to Bethel in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and made famous by Ruth Crosby's book, *I WAS A SUMMER BOARDER*, burned October 3, 1999.



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Died, 15 March 1999, John Blakney, Jr., Plainfield, New Jersey, Senior Member

Died, 15 October 1999, Marilyn Boyker Hammel, Tampa, FL, Life Member

Died, 30 October 1999, M. Heinie Merrill, Brunswick, Life Member

Died, 2 November 1999, Linda Harrington, Newry, Sustaining Member

Died, 6 November 1999, Marguerite Quinn, West Burke, VT, Honorary Member

Died, 23 November 1999, Marion E. Chapman, Hermitage, PA, Life Member

Died, 24 November 1999, Floribel B. Haines, Bethel, Charter and Honorary Member

Died, 13 December 1999, Allan Fraser, Bethel, Life and Honorary Member

2000 LECTURE SCHEDULE

May 4, "Ed Muskie of Maine," Christopher Beam, Ph.D., Director, Muskie Archives, Bates College

June 1, "Chansonetta Stanley Emmons: Maine Photographer," Marius Peladeau, L. C. Bates Museum

August 11, Hall Memorial Lecture, "The Intersection of Constitutions, Prohibition Laws, and Wife Abuse in 19th Century New England and New York," Jerome Nadelhaft, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor, University of Maine

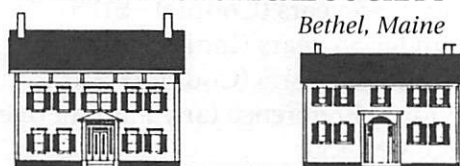
September 7, Annual Meeting, "Callow, Brave and True: Civil War Boy Soldiers," Jay Hoar, University of Maine at Farmington

October 5, "Where's Rumford? 200 Years of Rumford History," Linda Farr Macgregor, Rumford Bicentennial Oral History Committee

November 2, "William Bingham II: Philanthropist," Stanley Russell Howe, Ph.D., Executive Director, Bethel Historical Society

All lectures will begin at 7:30 P.M. and will be held in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House unless otherwise specified. Please call or e-mail the Society for further details.

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